

THIRD COLLEGE EDITION

Webster's New WorldTM Dictionary

OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

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*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor
and friend*

Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition

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see STRONG INTERAC-

2 lacking in courage,

physical strength or
ct
ak —adv. in a weak

nd; indecisive; unable
leminded 3 showing
d decision/ —weak-

eing weak 2 a weak
a) a liking; esp., an
thing of which one is
—SYN. FAULT
le of the court with
ve line having fewer

eliable; etc.
ridge raised on the

ll-being; akin to OS:
us state; well-being;
the body politic
(ME *weald*), forest,
[Old; Poet.] 1 a
Weald region in SE
avily forested
see WEAL & -TH
worldly possessions;
operty; affluence (a
ting); abundance (a
or derivatives (the
5 Econ. a) every-
price b) any useful
stocked for future

1 having, wealth;
y, or suggestive of
ed) (talk *wealthy* in
th-ness *n.*
pple
custom, train, with
wenian < IE base
ove] 1 to cause (a
gradually to food
ckling; now, often,
with a nipple 2 to
bject of affection,
r interest 3 to be
tomed to: with on

3] (Scot. or North
s just been wended

akin to Ger *waffe*,
1 an instrument of
ting or hunting 2
ng or defending 3
he law/ —weap-

gn and production

esign and produc-
tion's stockpile of

: OE *werian*, akin
wes-, to clothe +
1 a) to have on
weapon, etc.) b)
the heavy weight
as to be in style
have or show
wearing an all
son habitually
ic or attractive
ow (its flag) and
by constant
ing by use be a
cause, of previous
to wear a look
son) 10 in pass-
-vt. 1 to bewitch,
use, friction, the
use as a verb
wear well 2 to
oring thing 3 to
f time (the same
fect (not) fading
or the same
ing, on the
faded
gradual
the ground
from sun

tion, etc. /a lot of wear left in the tire/ —wear down: 1 to make or become worn; lose or cause to lose thickness or heights by use, friction, etc. 2 to tire out; or exhaust (a person); weary 3 to overcome the resistance of by persistence —wear off to pass away or diminish by degrees —wear out 1 to make or become useless from continued wear or use 2 to waste or consume by degrees 3 to tire out; exhaust —wear the pants (or trousers) [Colloq.] to have the greatest authority in a family —wear^{er}. *n.*

wear² (wer) *vt.* wore, worn, wearing [? altered (infl. by prec.) < WEAR¹] to turn or bring (a vessel) about by swinging its bow away from the wind; veer: opposed to TACK (ut. 4a) —*vi.* to turn or come about by having the bow swung away from the wind —*n.* the act of wearing a ship

Wear (wir) river in Durham, N England, flowing northeast into the North Sea: 67 mi. (107 km)

wear-able (wer'ə bal) *adj.* that can be worn; suitable for wear —*n.* [pl.] wearable things; garments; clothing —wear-ability *n.*

wear and tear loss and damage resulting from use
wear-ful (wir'f al) *adj.* that makes weary; tiresome —wear-fully *adv.* —wear-fulness *n.*

wear-less (wir'ə lis) *adj.* unwearied; tireless —wear-lessly *adv.* —wear-lessness *n.*

wear-iness (-ē nis) *n.* 1 the condition or quality of being weary; fatigue or tedious 2 something that wears

wear-ing (wer'in) *adj.* 1 of or intended for wear [wearing apparel] 2 causing wear, or gradual impairment or diminution 3 wearying; tiring —wear-ingly *adv.*

wear-isome (wir'ə sam) *adj.* causing weariness; tiring, tiresome, or tedious —wear-isomely *adv.*

wear-proof (wer'pruf) *adj.* resistant to normal wear or the effects of continued use

wear-y (wir'ē) *adj.* trier, triest [ME *weri* < OE *werig*, akin to OHG *worag*, drunk < IE base **wōr-*, giddiness; faintness > Gr *hōrakian*, to be giddy] 1 tired; worn out 2 without further liking, patience, tolerance, zeal; etc.; bored: with of [weary of jokes] 3 tiring [weary work] 4 irksome; tedious; tiresome [his weary explanation] —*vt., vi.* -ried, -rying to make or become weary —SYN. TIRED —wear-ily *adv.* —wear-iness *n.*

weasel (we'zel) *n., pl. -sels or -sel* [ME *wesel* < OE *wesle*, akin to Ger *wiesel*, prob. < IE base

**weis-*, to flow out (with reference to the rank odor emitted by the animal) > VIRUS, BISON] 1 any of various agile musteline carnivores (esp. genus *Mustela*) with a long, slender body, short legs, and a long, bushy tail: they feed on rats, mice, birds, eggs, etc., and are worldwide 2 a sly, cunning, or sneaky person —*vt.* 1 to use weasel words 2 [Colloq.] to avoid or evade a commitment or responsibility: with out —weasel-y *adj.*



WEASEL

*weasel words [prob. in allusion to the weasel's habit of sucking out the contents of an egg without destroying the shell] words or remarks that are equivocal or deliberately ambiguous or misleading
weather (we'thər) *n.* [ME *weder* < OE, akin to ON *wethr*, Ger *wetter* < IE base **we-*, 'awe', to blow > WIND, OSlav *vedro*, fair weather] 1 the general condition of the atmosphere at a particular time and place, with regard to the temperature, moisture, cloudiness, etc. 2 disagreeable or harmful atmospheric conditions; storm, rain, etc. [protected against the weather] —*vt.* 1 to expose to the action of weather or atmosphere, as for airing, drying, seasoning, etc. 2 to wear away, discolored, disintegrate, or otherwise change for the worse by exposure to the atmosphere 3 to pass through safely or survive [to weather a storm] 4 to slope (masonry, cornices, sills, etc.) so as to allow water to run off 5 Naut. to pass to the windward of (a cape, reef, etc.) —*vi.* 1 to become discolored, disintegrated, etc. by exposure to the weather or atmosphere 2 to endure such exposure in a specified manner [canvas that weathers well] —*adj.* 1 designating or of the side of a ship, etc. toward the wind; windward 2 exposed to the elements [weather deck] —under the weather [Colloq.] 1 not feeling well; somewhat sick; ailing 2 somewhat drunk —weather through to pass or go safely through a storm, peril, difficulty, etc.
weather-beaten (-bēt'n) *adj.* showing the effect of weather, as a stained, damaged, or worn down b) sunburned, roughened, etc. (said of a person, one's face, etc.)

weather-board (-bōrd) *n.* 1 a) CLAPBOARD b) weatherboards collectively 2 Naut. the windward side of a ship —*vt.* to cover with weatherboards

weather-board-ing (-bōrd'ing) *n.* weatherboards collectively
weather-bound (-bound) *adj.* delayed or halted by bad weather, as a ship, airplane, etc.

*Weather Bureau old name for NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
weather-cock (-kāk) *n.* 1 a weather vane in the shape of a rooster 2 a fickle or changeable person or thing

weather-ed (we'thəd) *adj.* 1 seasoned by the weather; stained, worn, or beaten by the weather 2 given a stained or discolored finish intended to resemble that produced by exposure to the weather 3 Archit. made sloping, as sills, so as to shed water

weather-eye 1 an eye alert to signs of changing weather 2 a close watch for change of any kind (to keep a weather eye on a touchy situation) —keep one's weather eye open to be on the alert; stay on guard

weather-glass (we'thər glās) *n.* BAROMETER (sense 1)

weather-ing (-ing) *n.* 1 Archit. a slope built to shed water 2 Geol. the physical and chemical effects of the forces of weather on rock surfaces, as in forming soil, sand, etc.

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wearer / Weber

*weather-ize (-iz') *vt.* -ized, -izing [WEATHER + -IZE] to weather-strip, insulate, etc. (a building), as in order to conserve heat —weather-ization *n.*

weather-ly (-lē) *adj.* Naut. that can sail close to the wind with very little drift to leeward —weather-iness *n.*

weather-man (-man) *n., pl. -men' (-man')* *a person who forecasts the weather, or, esp., one who reports weather conditions and forecasts, as on television

*weather map a map or chart showing the condition of the weather in a certain area at a given time by indicating barometric pressures, temperatures, wind direction, etc.

weather-proof (-proof) *adj.* that can be exposed to wind, rain, snow, etc. without being damaged —*vt.* to make weatherproof

weather station a post or office where weather conditions are recorded and studied and forecasts are made

*weather-strip (-strip) *n.* a thin strip of metal, felt, wood, etc., used to cover the joint between a door or window sash and the jamb, casing, or sill so as to keep out drafts, rain, etc. Also weather strip —*vt.* -stripped, -stripping to fit or provide with weatherstrips

*weather-stripping (-strip'ing) *n.* 1 WEATHERSTRIP 2 weatherstrips collectively

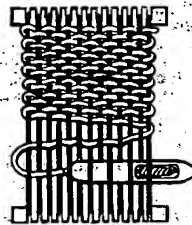
weather vane a vane that swings in the wind to show the direction from which the wind is blowing

weather-wise (-wiz') *adj.* 1 skilled in predicting the weather 2 skilled in predicting shifts of opinion, feeling, etc.

weather-worn (-wōrn) *adj.* WEATHER-BEATEN

weave (wēv) *vt.* wove or, chiefly for vt. 6 & vi. 2, weaved, wove or wove or, chiefly for vt. 6 & vi. 2, weaved, wove

weaved, weaving [ME *weven* < OE *wefan*, akin to ON *wefa*, Ger *weben* < IE **webh-* (> Gr *huphē*) < base **(a)we-*, to plait, weave] 1 a) to make (a fabric), esp. on a loom, by interlacing threads or yarns b) to form (threads) into a fabric 2 a) to construct in the mind or imagination b) to work (details, incidents, etc.) into a story, poem, etc. 3 a) to make by interlacing twigs, straw, rush, wicker, etc. [to weave baskets] b) to twist or interlace (straw, wicker, etc.) so as to form something 4 to twist or interlace (something) into, through, or among [to weave flowers into one's hair] 5 to make or spin (a web): said of spiders, etc. 6 a) to cause (a vehicle, etc.) to move from side to side or in and out b) to make (one's way) by moving in this fashion —*vi.* 1 to do weaving; make cloth 2 to move from side to side or in and out [weaving through traffic] —*n.* a method, manner, or pattern of weaving [a cloth of English weave]



WEAVING

weaver (wē'vər) *n.* 1 a person who weaves; esp., one whose work is weaving 2 WEAVER FINCH

weaver-bird (-bērd) *n.* WEAVER FINCH
weaver finch any of a number of Old World finches (family Ploceidae) that weave elaborate domed nests of sticks, grass, and other vegetation

weaver's hitch (or knot) SHEET BEND

web (web) *n.* [ME < OE *webb*, akin to ON *wefr*, OHG *weppi* < IE **webh-*, to weave] 1 any woven fabric; esp., a length of cloth being woven on a loom or just taken off 2 a) the woven or spun network of a spider; cobweb b) a similar network spun by the larvae of certain insects 3 a carefully woven trap or snare 4 a complicated work of the mind; imagination, etc. [a web of lies] 5 anything like a web, as in intricacy of pattern; interconnection of elements, etc.; network 6 Anat. a) tissue or membrane b) an abnormal membrane joining fingers or toes at the base 7 Archit. the portion of a ribbed vault between the ribs 8 Mech. the plate joining the flanges of a joist, girder, rail, etc. 9 Printing a large roll of paper for continuously feeding a type of rotary press (web press) 10 Zool. a) the vane of a feather b) a membrane partly or completely joining the digits of various water birds, water animals, etc. —*vt.* webbed, webbing 1 to join by or as by a web 2 to cover with or as with a web 3 to catch or snare in or as in a web —web-like *adj.*

Webb (web) 1 Beatrice (Potter) 1858-1943; Eng. economist & socialist reformer: wife of Sidney James 2 Sidney (James) 1st Baron Passfield 1859-1947; Eng. economist & socialist reformer

webbed (webd) *adj.* 1 formed like a web or made of webbing 2 joined by a web [webbed toes] 3 having the digits joined by a web [a webbed foot]

webbing (web'ing) *n.* 1 a strong, tough fabric, as of jute or cotton, woven in strips and used for belts, in upholstery, etc. 2 a membrane joining the digits, as of a duck, goose, frog, etc. 3 a part like this: as between the thumb and forefinger of a baseball glove 4 a netlike structure of interwoven cord, etc., as the strung part of rackets
webby (-ē) *adj.* web-bier, web-biest 1 of, having the nature of, or like a web 2 webbed or palmate

weber (wē'bər, wā'bər) *n.* [after Wilhelm Eduard WEBER] the practical mks. unit of magnetic flux, equal to 10⁹ maxwells: abbrev. *Wb.*
Weber (wā'bər, wā'bər) 1 Carl Maria (Friedrich Ernst) von (mā rē'ā fōn) 1786-1826; Ger. composer 2 Ernst Heinrich (ernst

at, ate, cār, ten, ēvər, is, icē, gō, hōrn, look, tōō; oil, out; up, fur, a for unstressed vowels, as a in ago, u in focus; t as in Latin (lat'n); chin; she; zh as in azure (az'hər); thin, the; n as in ring (rīn) In etymologies: * = unattested; < = derived from; > = from which
★ = Americanism

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